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Report Released Today - Copies Available

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing an investigation which found that Barbara Cipollaro, a 40-year-old Speech teacher assigned to PS 138 in the Bronx, enrolled two of her children at PS 71 in the Bronx even though the family resided in Westchester County. Cipollaro provided false address information—which included two different Bronx addresses—to register her children at the Bronx public school.

The investigation revealed that Cipollaro and her children did not live at either of the Bronx addresses. Rather, documentary evidence relating to Cipollaro, her husband, and her two other children, as well as a surveillance of Cipollaro and her two sons who attend PS 71, showed that she lives in Cortlandt Manor, New York. Cipollaro did not afford herself of the opportunity to seek amnesty from disciplinary action which was offered by the New York City Department of Education following SCI's report about former Brooklyn Technical High School Principal Lee McCaskill and his teacher wife, Cathy Furman McCaskill, who lived in New Jersey but sent their daughter to a Brooklyn public school without paying tuition.

Commissioner Condon has referred his findings to the Bronx County District Attorney for whatever action he deems appropriate. The Special Commissioner has also recommended that Barbara Cipollaro's employment be terminated, that she be made ineligible for any future employment with the DOE, and that she be billed for the educational services provided to her children while they were enrolled at PS 71.

The Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation is part of the New York City Department of Investigation and Special Commissioner Condon reports to Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn.